

# **CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING: APRIL 6, 2020**

THIS IS THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING FOR THE ENTIRE TOWN OF WELLESLEY AND IS SHARED ACROSS ALL COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORMS

## Visit Wellesley's new Coronavirus Information Hub at

www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus

### Health Department COVID-19 Case Update.

Total confirmed cases in Massachusetts: 13,837 New Cases Today: 1,337

Total cases in Norfolk County: 1,382 Total cases in Wellesley: 31 (6 new)

The Health Department wants to stress to residents that the next two weeks are critical to stem the COVID-19 outbreak. Please continue to stay home and adhere to all restrictions. Local case numbers may not accurately reflect the infections in our community. Individuals who are not showing symptoms of the virus may still be spreading it.

Officials are urging the community to follow the Centers for Disease Control recommendation to wear non-medical masks or cloths over faces as a precaution when going out. This is especially important in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores and pharmacies, and especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. The cloth face coverings can be made from household items such as scarves, bandanas, and even t-shirts. The CDC is not recommending surgical or N-95 masks, as these critical supplies must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders. Read more from the CDC.

#### State Launches COVID-19 Relief Fund.

Governor Baker and First Lady Lauren Baker announced a relief fund to provide resources to front line workers and vulnerable populations. Money raised will be directed to local area foundations serving communities with the greatest need. Learn more or make a donation.

## **WPS Releases Updated Remote Learning Plan**

Wellesley Public Schools released Remote Learning Plan 2.0 for students to follow until school resumes on May 4. The plan includes additional guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and recommendations to support social and emotional health along with academic growth. A separate Technology Guide Overview provides details remote learning expectations, while giving parents and students flexibility during this unprecedented time. Read the <a href="WPS Remote Learning Plan">WPS Remote Learning Plan</a> 2.0. Read the <a href="WPS Technology Guide Overview">WPS Technology Guide Overview</a>.

The School Committee is also considering cancelling April vacation to prevent a break in the remote learning process. The Committee will discuss this issue during its meeting on Tuesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m.

<sup>\*</sup>Please remember to properly dispose of used masks and gloves in trash receptacles.

## #WellesleyWillBeWell

## **Supporting Wellesley Call Center.**

Town employees are staffing a call center for residents in need of services as a result of Covid-19. The team can assist with non-emergency COVID-19 issues such as medical questions, securing food, prescription delivery, financial assistance or a listening ear. Callers will be connected to appropriate town resources or certified volunteers who can help residents access these services. For help, call 781-239-0256 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## **Social and Physical Distancing Guidelines.**

Please continue to follow the Town guidelines on social and physical distancing, even when outdoors. The Wellesley Police Department is frequently checking popular outdoor locations to make sure residents are not congregating. Please call the WPD non-emergency line at 781-235-1212 with concerns.

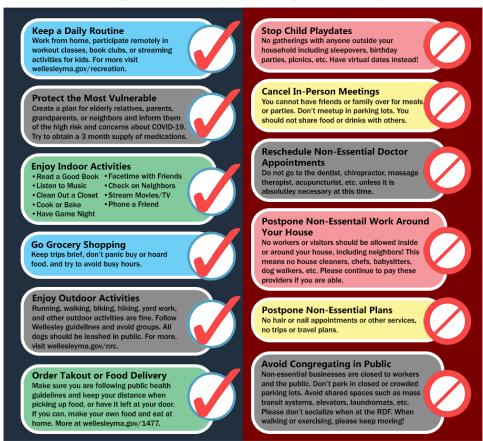
#### WHAT IS SOCIAL DISTANCING?



Social distancing is our main strategy for slowing the spread of COVID-19. Practice effective social distancing by physically staying away from non-household members and avoiding all gatherings. The Health Department advises that you **STAY HOME** and perform daily activities remotely, if possible.

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Wellesley Health Department

If you must go out: Cover your face in public, stay at least 6 feet away from others and avoid physical contact. Don't touch your face and wash your hands as soon as you return home.



Use common sense. Social distancing can be difficult - these guidelines are temporary and can help you stay safe. So, please maintain your distance!



To learn more visit the COVID-19 Information Hub www.wellesleyma.gov/coronavirus or call 781-235-0135